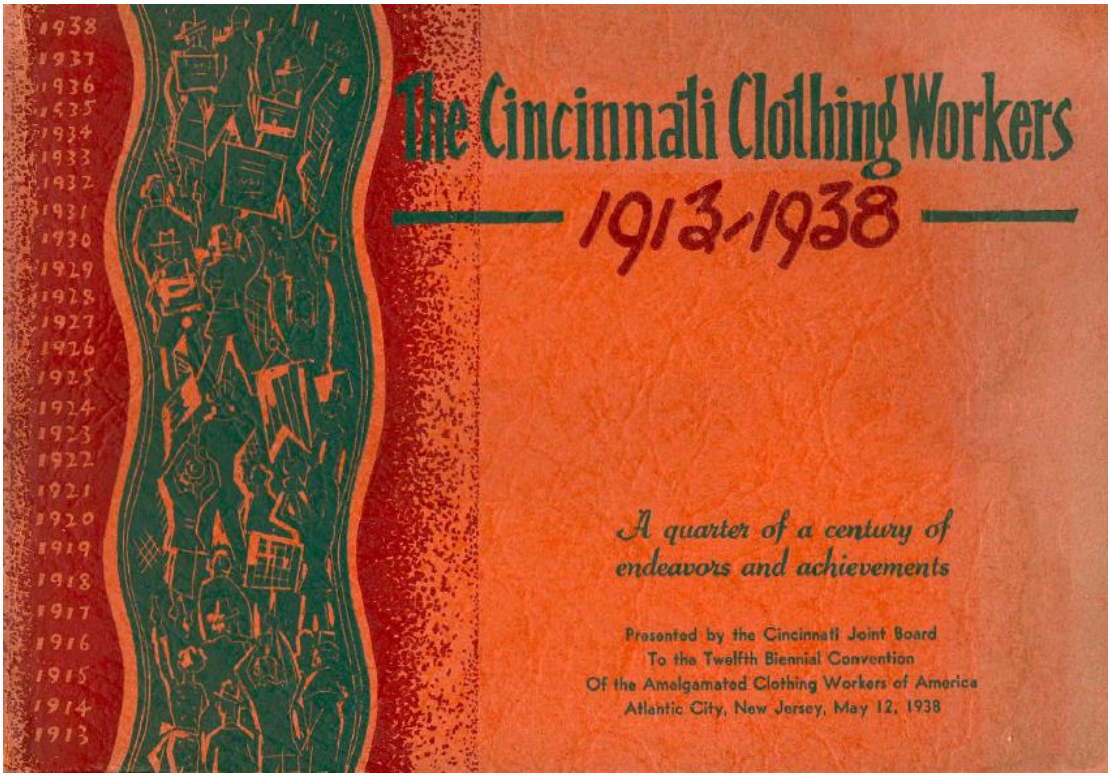
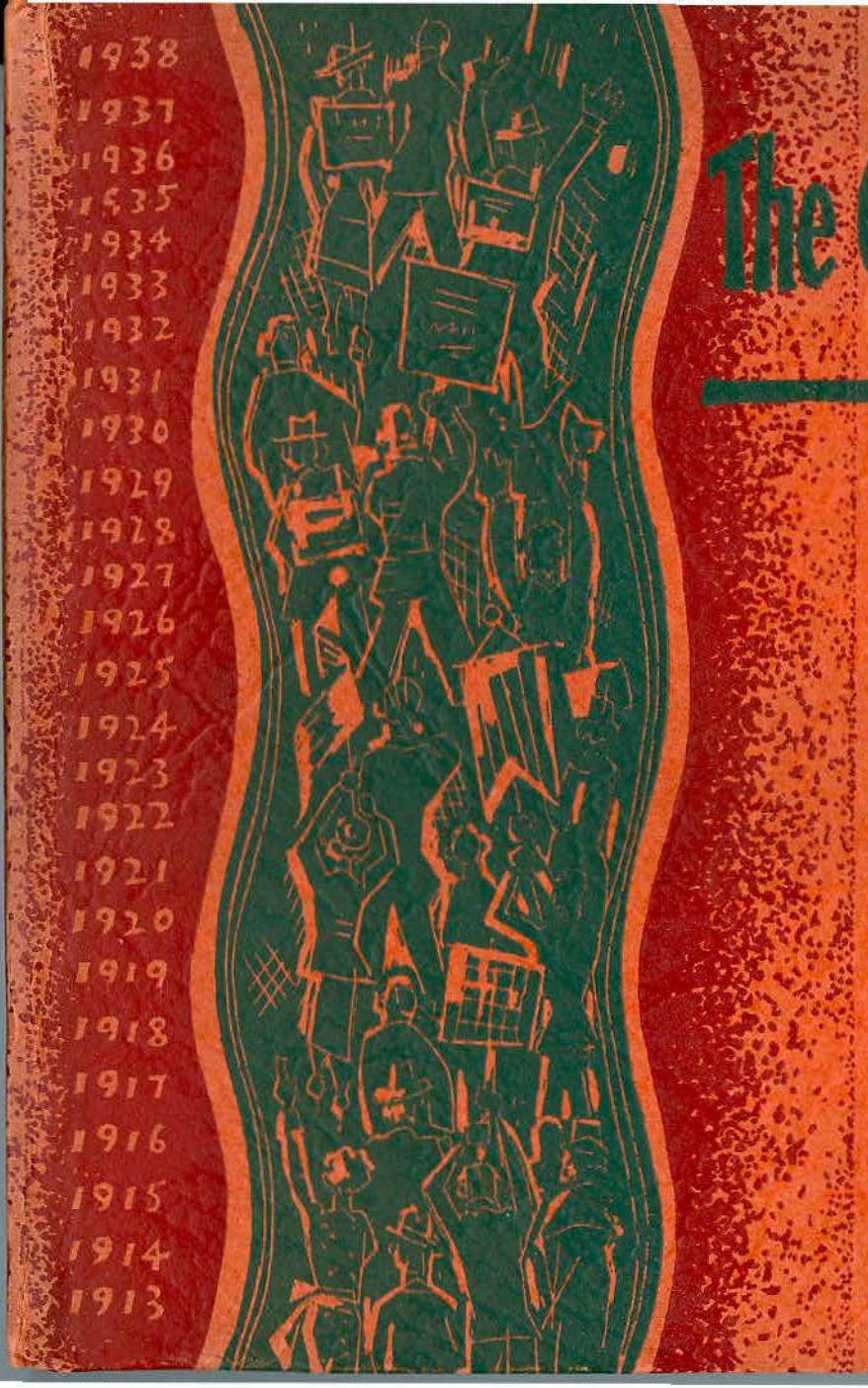
The Cincinnati Clothing Workers 1913-1938

A quarter of a century of endeavors and achievements



Found among materials preserved in the Grandinetti family archive, this is a scanned copy (2009) of a hardcopy publication issued by the Cincinnati Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America to commemorate the Union's 25th anniversary. A direct connection between Emilio Grandinetti and this publication is unknown, but he is featured or mentioned on several pages (9, 36, 43).

Note: Future revisions to this file may incorporate additional information, photographs, or documents as they are discovered. It is also one part of a planned collection related to Emilio's labor activities, as well as a larger project aiming to preserve the memories of the two generations of Grandinettis that preceded mine.

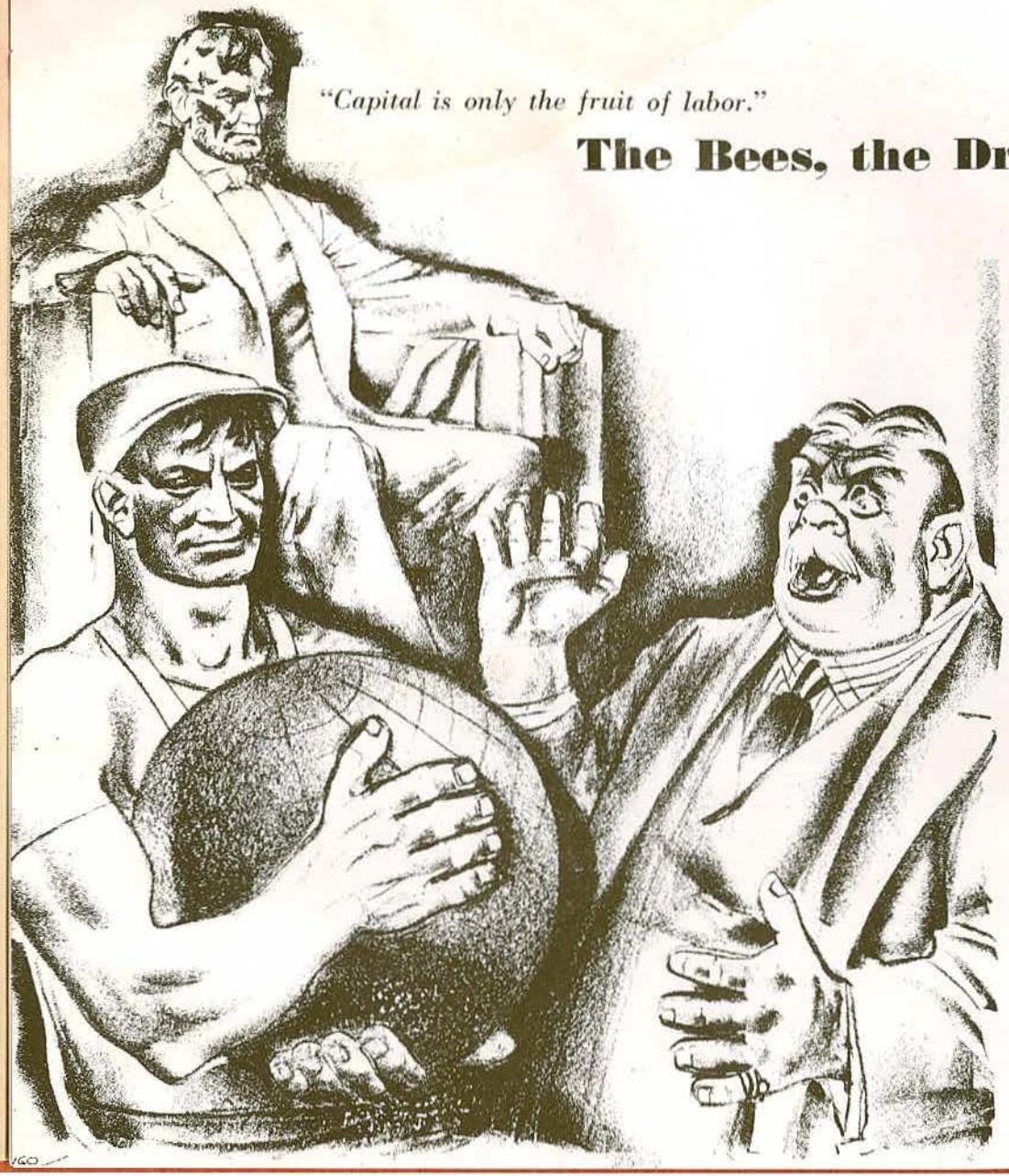


The Cincinnati Clothing Workers

1913-1938

A quarter of a century of endeavors and achievements

Presented by the Cincinnati Joint Board
To the Twelfth Biennial Convention
Of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America
Atlantic City, New Jersey, May 12, 1938



"Capital is only the fruit of labor."

The Bees, the Drones, and the Wasp

Some bees had built their comb in the hollow trunk of an oak. The drones asserted that it was their work, and belonged to them.

The case was brought before Judge Wasp. Knowing something of the parties, he thus addressed them:

"The ends of justice, and the object of the Court, will best be furthered by the plan which I propose. Let each party take a hive to itself and build up a new comb, so that from the shape of the cells, and the taste of the honey, the lawful proprietors of the property in dispute may appear."

The bees readily assented to the wasp's plan. The drones declined it. Whereupon the wasp gave judgment:

"It is clear now who made the comb, and who cannot make it; the Court adjudges the honey to the bees." —*An Aesop Fable*

Abraham Lincoln's message to Congress, Dec. 3, 1861: "Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration."

The Cincinnati Clothing Workers

1913-1938

A quarter of a century of endeavors and achievements

Chronological Record by Jack Kroll
With a Preface by J. B. S. Hardman

Published by The Cincinnati Joint Board, ACWA

AMALGAMATED CLOTHING WORKERS
OF AMERICA

FOREWORD

THE Cincinnati Joint Board takes great pleasure in presenting the story of our organization to this convention, the most important convention, we believe, of our international union. It is our hope that the officers and the delegates will find an opportunity to look into this record of our struggles and of our achievements.

Most of the facts that we are presenting in this book are known, of course, to active members and leaders of our national organization. We ask, however, that the concentrated presentation of the experiences of the Cincinnati clothing workers be given consideration because we think that the picture, viewed as a whole, is more telling than when thought of as so many incidents.

In the last analysis, the Cincinnati story is the story of the Amalgamated everywhere. What we had to face in Cincinnati our unions everywhere had to face. The difficulties that we met and the obstacles that we had to overcome, you, the older units of the union had to meet and overcome, and the newer organizations will, in turn, have to face. It was due to the old and true Amalgamated policy of determined and systematic activity that we finally won out. This is the policy that made the Amalgamated everywhere the great union that it now is.

And so as you read our story, we are sure, you will be thinking, time and again, of your own experiences in the years past. We flatter ourselves that the younger members and leaders will find our story profitable reading.

Today we have a splendid organization. Our industry is 100% organized and our union is functioning 100%. Of this, of course, we are proud. Particularly so, since it did not come to us on a silver platter; it was by hard and strenuous labor over a quarter of a hundred years that we brought this condition about. But we are likewise aware of the fact that we have accomplished all this only because of the sustained encouragement, the material assistance and the inspiring leadership that we have received from the national organization, and from the many organizations in other cities that came to our aid in times of need.

Our success came, of course, not until the movement all over the country began to grow strong and powerful. The strongest chain is as weak as its weakest link. In the recognition of this truth Amalgamated organizations everywhere were never satisfied with building their strength only, but always have simultaneously concerned themselves with helping their fellow men and women in their own industry and beyond the confines of their industrry.

It is our determination to continue toward our great ideal—the building of a powerful movement in a great democracy.

We, the workers of Cincinnati, have always borne in mind, in times when despair seemed to grip most of us as well as in moments of triumph, that the trade union movement in no wise exists apart and separately from the rest of the community. Our organization in Cincinnati has always been responsive to the needs of others, from wherever a call for aid might come, and we have always taken and given in the spirit of brotherhood. So we do not feel bashful that we were helped by others and we take no excessive pride in the fact that we have helped others.

We have been a part of the moving democratic forces in our community and in the nation, and at this moment of our great rejoicing at the success we have attained, we say to you, friends and fellow-unionists: Let us dedicate ourselves and all that is ours to the great cause of industrial democracy and of personal and political freedom under our democratic system of government.

Long live our union in the land of the free.

Cincinnati Joint Board,
Jack Kroll, Manager

About the Cincinnati Story

By J. B. S. Hardman

THE story in this book has moved me beyond anything else that has come, in a long time, from any of our organizations. I hope many will read it. I further hope the attractive pictures and photographs which illustrate the chronological account of the Cincinnati union will not divert attention from the reading matter itself. It is a real drama, the drama of unfolding humanity.

The story could have been written in more ornate style. I wouldn't have preferred it for that. It is simple, terse language, the language of a day-to-day report that makes it so impressive. It reveals an impact of events and forces that cannot fail to carry the reader. It brings forth the dynamics inherent in our union struggle for humanity precisely because it is wholly free of unnecessary adjectives and superlatives. Its straight-from-the-shoulder account of the organization's militant life, over a quarter of a century, becomes good writing not because it was well written but because it carries its message in so convincing a way.

Above all, the Cincinnati story has the quality of being truthful. This truthfulness appears not from corroborating testimony of eye-witnesses, but it comes out of the tone in which it is done. Union accounts especially when presented on a holiday occasion like a convention, are rarely free of ballyhoo. It is entirely unusual that a union account candidly admits failures of efforts. This Cincinnati record chooses not to hide the many defeats it has suffered. These admissions are made, true enough, in a recitation that winds up with victory. But—haven't we histories of so many successful enterprises entirely rewritten so that they could claim infallibility from the very outset? This, though, is not the Cincinnati way. Their leadership appears in a better light for its freedom from the beautifying efforts of the build-up experts.

I have closely watched the Cincinnati movement over a great number of years. I have known Cincinnati union leaders and a good many of the Cincinnati ACW members for as long as three decades back. I remember when Cincinnati was the desert of successful organization in the clothing industry. I saw the Cincinnati movement all through the years before and after the World War, and the ravages the latter caused it.

Because I know the city I can say that even more remarkable than the eventual building up of a great organization in Cincinnati is the fact that the average men and women in that organization had sustained their faith in the possibility of success throughout the years before success became believable. Nowhere was work more difficult. Hardly anywhere were conditions so discouraging. Yet work was done. Conditions were defied.

The Nash case to which reference in the record is made in the space of a few paragraphs, was in its time an event which provoked nation-wide interest. For many months after the signing of the union agreement, prominent feature writers for newspapers and magazines trekked to Cincinnati to find out just how that marvelous thing happened, the consummation of a union agreement between the late Nash, a 100% union opponent, and the Amalgamated. The man had fought the union with the same enthusiasm as he promoted his "Golden Rule."

Mr. Nash was a very remarkable person. He was a good fighter. But he was no Babbitt. He knew power when he saw it and he had an appreciation of the application of power to human relations. The record has it that peaceful and diplomatic penetration had accomplished the thing. But not until the union demonstrated that it had the power of organization and the determination to win, no matter what the cost, was Mr. Nash willing to talk peace. Having taken cognizance of this fact, and this should be said to his credit and as proof of the man's sagacity, he signed the union agreement with no mental reservations and no thought of back-tracking.

The Nash settlement confronted the union leadership with an extraordinary task in human engineering. Having inherited from

the previous "golden"-ruled days a crowd reared in distrust of unionism, the union had to reeducate them, to make unionists of them. To this difficult task the union applied itself with its usual energy and skill. And before many months had passed the three thousand Nash "golden rule brothers" became three thousand good union workers. There was a rich opportunity there for educators to look into the problem of adult education and to learn something about doing the job well.

The strikes in the Ohio and Hamilton tailoring plants presented the union with another occasion to test its leadership. One of the two strikes lasted twenty months, the other nearly two years. The workers held out hard and true. Manager Kroll and his associates were time and again advised, from many sources, that it was futile and suicidal to ruin an organization by sheer stubbornness. The strikes weren't given up. The Cincinnati organization proved right, both in its confidence in eventual victory and in its appreciation of how much victory, if achieved, at this time, would tend to raise the standing of the union in the clothing industry of the city.

Of course, the national Amalgamated helped. Frank Rosenblum for the national union gave Cincinnati much attention and assistance. The great union-enthusiasm generated by the CIO drives in 1936 and 1937 greatly helped the Cincinnati union to achieve the things it has. The advantages offered by the validation of the National Labor Relations Act by the Supreme Court in 1937, were another source of support to the Cincinnati union. It has helped the organization "make friends and influence people"—employers, that is—for collective bargaining. This does not in the least detract from the credit that is properly due to the Cincinnati union. A wise leadership is one that puts all opportunities and advantages to proper use. A brave leadership is one that isn't scared off by difficulties and adversities, but seeks to overcome them. The Cincinnati union has scored on both counts.

Leaders play a great part in organizations. To a great degree leadership makes or breaks an organization. But, to no small degree, leadership is made by organizations. I have known Mr. Kroll for many years and I have known Emilio Grandinetti for about an equally long time. Each one, in his own way, possesses qualities of leadership that are necessary and essential for the purpose of building up a worthwhile movement. Again, in a different sense, this is true of Morris Schaps and several others of the old-timers. But neither one of them, nor, for that matter, anyone else, could build an enduring union structure if the quality of the human material at hand weren't high.

I could name dozens of men in the Cincinnati union whom I have known for years, and upon whom a vital share of the responsibility for the success of the Kroll management should be properly placed.

What is called in the Amalgamated "the activity," and in other organizations—the Jimmie Higginses—represents a crucial force in our efforts and accomplishments, or failures, as the case may be. But these people's names rarerly figure in stories broadcast to the wide outside world. Some day, a way will be devised of referring, by name, to the individuals of whom we now say: their name is legion. However, it is they who have helped Kroll, and his fellow-leaders, and Kroll is first to recognize this help, to give the Cincinnati clothing workers what they now have—a fortress of union strength and an honest, clean union.

I realize how inadequately I have carried out my original intention of making a few prefatory remarks about the chronological story of the Cincinnati union presented in the following pages. Probably I should have written just about three sentences and let the record stand on its own. Or, I should have told in detail the real story to supplement the sketchy record. I have done neither. My excuse, if one is needed, is that I was carried away by the warm feeling the struggling Cincinnati union movement has always evoked in me. Feeling is devoid of a sense of measure. Nor is feeling very keen about detail. But I fear no great resentment against my failings because I know that those who will read the pages which follow will not escape reacting in much the same manner as I have reacted to what is told further on.

By way of advice, read the story on these pages, in one sitting. It reads most fascinatingly when read whole.

The Cincinnati Clothing Workers

1913-1918: Our Early Years

THE story of the Cincinnati clothing workers under the United Garment Workers ran true to form. Long hours, low wages and intolerable sweatshop conditions prevailed throughout the market.

When spontaneous strikes occurred, and they were not infrequent, one craft scabbed on another and any concessions won in the busy season were taken away in the following slow season. There was no attempt made to build an effective union.

In 1913, the tailors in large markets were on strike and when the word reached this city, the tailors walked out in a general strike. The "Bible House", the New York seat of the United Garment Workers, the national organization of the clothing workers at that time, willed that the tailors should have no union in Cincinnati and declared the strike "illegal." Betrayed by their national office, forsaken by their local officers, with no support, no leadership, the disheartened and discouraged workers were beaten back.

The "Duncan Hotel Convention" in Nashville

BY 1914 the AFL union in the men's clothing industry, the United Garment Workers Union, had shown itself to be utterly inadequate to the needs of the workers in the industry. It was inefficient and corrupt. The active workers of the largest locals in New York and Chicago, hopeful of making a change in the leadership, were denied seats at the convention which was held in Nashville. They removed to the Duncan Hotel, and representing the vast majority of the workers, established a new union, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

October, 1914

Two delegates represented Local No. 113 and Local No. 121 at the Nashville Convention of the United Garment Workers. Both delegates took an active part in the Duncan Hotel Convention.

A nucleus of an Amalgamated Clothing Workers union was formed in Cincinnati.

December 25, 1914

At the Webster Hall Convention in New York City there was one Cincinnati delegate.

December 30, 1914

Locals No. 113 and No. 121 in a body joined the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

February, 1915

Locals No. 113 and No. 121 struggling to live were treacherously betrayed by a "leader", and as a result both locals were forced to give up their charters.

June 3, 1915

President Sidney Hillman came to the city to address a mass meeting at Cosmopolitan Hall. General Executive Board Member Frank Rosenblum and Gen-

eral Organizer Emilio Grandinetti also spoke.

August 27, 1915

Local No. 113 was reorganized and rechartered.

May, 1916

Local No. 113 sent a delegate to the Rochester Convention. He asked for assistance in organizing the city. An organizer was sent.

Out of the Shops! Cincinnati workers greet the union.

August, 1916

After a short strike, the firm of Schwartz and Dreyfuss was organized. The workers of the Seinsheimer Clothing Company also went out on strike, and after two weeks, returned to work. Both shops won a fifty hour week, 5 to 20 percent increase in wages and recognition of a shop committee. Progress was made in winning other clothing workers, but the seeds of disloyalty implanted by the old organization, were still alive. The treachery of the shop chairman destroyed the organization after a short life.

A few loyal members maintained the charter of Local No. 113 in secrecy, but the spirit of the workers was broken by the trickery of their former officers.

May, 1918

Because of the financial straits of Local No. 113, there was no representation of Cincinnati tailors at the Baltimore Convention in 1918.

November, 1918

An organization campaign was started which received added impetus from the drive for the forty-four hour week carried on in New York and Chicago.

The Amalgamated Takes Root

BY the end of 1916 the new union, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, had taken root in the industry and proved its right to represent the clothing workers. Unionization had gone forward in New York City, where collective bargaining agreements had been won, and a great dent had been made in the Chicago market. New organization policies had followed the entrance of the new union on the scene. Close cooperation between cutters and tailors was secured; all energy was poured into organizing the unorganized workers; devoted, militant, courageous workers came into positions of leadership, backed up wholeheartedly by the great mass of members.

At the 1916 convention, the union reported a national membership of over 48,000.

1919—The First General Strike In Cincinnati

February 8, 1919

The employers issued a proclamation granting a 46 hour week but this did not check the move toward the union. In fact, it grew stronger.

February 15, 1919

A 44 hour week, with a 3 percent increase in wages for the clothing workers was announced. This was to go into effect the following May.

In spite of these announcements, the urge toward unionization grew even stronger.

March 7, 1919

Local No. 188 of the United Garment Workers voted to affiliate with the Amalgamated.

March 13, 1919

A mass meeting scheduled at Central Turner Hall was banned by the Chief of Police but the ban was later lifted. General Secretary Joseph Schlossberg was addressing the meeting when suddenly the lights went out, leaving the hall in complete darkness. The electric wires had been cut. The meeting continued by candlelight.

March 14, 1919

The organization presented the employers with demands: 20 percent increase in wages, collective bargaining, and time and one-half for overtime.

March 18, 1919

The employers' only answer to the demands was to lock out the members of Local No. 188.

March 19, 1919

About 2,000 workers marched out of the shops in a general strike.

April 12, 1919

The Globe Tailoring Company agreed to a 10 percent increase for the piece workers, two dollars a week increase for week workers and recognition of shop committees.

June 3, 1919

The Milton Ochs Clothing Company granted a 15 percent increase and recognition of shop committee.

The strike in other shops continued.

At the Helm of the National Industry

THE years from 1917-1919 saw the Amalgamated organize the clothing industry on a national scale.

The declaration of war in 1917 filled the clothing factories with orders for uniforms, and the union took advantage of industrial conditions to push its organization campaign.

During this period New York City, Chicago, Rochester, Baltimore, and Boston were almost completely organized; substantial inroads were made into other centers. The 44 hour week was generally established throughout the industry and higher wages were secured. At the end of 1919 the union had a membership of 177,000.

"Un-American," "Seditionist" and "Bolshevik" were the cries promptly raised against us. "Seditionists!" were the big headlines in the newspapers. "Seditionists!" cried the hired thugs who slugged the pickets and organizers. "Bolsheviki!" was the cry in the court room. "Un-American!" cried the official labor movement, but the strikers carried on.

A striker was arrested for assault, and sent to jail for six months. In sentencing him, the Judge said, "Forces of anarchy and destruction at this hour are in full control of Russia and to a lesser degree in Germany. They seek the complete overthrow of all government structures and the destruction of all long established and sacred customs and institutions of civilization. If these forces are not brought to a complete and sudden stop they will overwhelm the world. The tactics employed by you are the same employed by the Bolsheviki in Europe. The sentence of the Court is a fine of $200 and that you be confined to jail for six months." Thus spoke justice.

The *Cincinnati Enquirer* published a vitriolic editorial against the strikers headed "Treat Them Rough." The *Labor Advocate* condemned the strikers in the following terms, "All ordinary methods should be dropped and action of the most primitive nature taken and at once." Thus the "free press."

Three general organizers were arrested and held for the Grand Jury under $7,000 bond. Four strikers were charged with malicious destruction of property and held under $5,000 bail. After a long court fight, the four men were sent to jail, served nine months and then were pardoned.

A Judge ruled that there was no strike and fined seven strikers for carrying a strike banner.

A woman striker was arrested and charged with malicious destruction of property. She was sentenced to the penitentiary for a term of from one to fifteen years. She was subsequently pardoned.

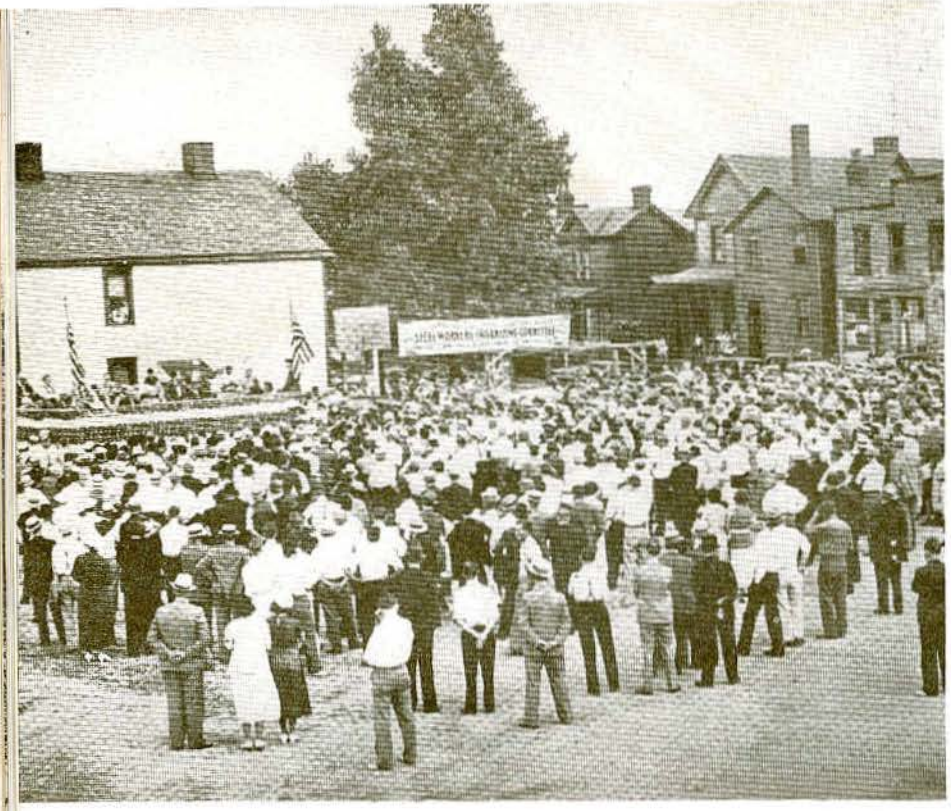
Another woman picket was sentenced to the workhouse for six months, under a false accusation of throwing pepper in the eyes of a "scab." She served thirty days and was pardoned. (Some time later she committed suicide.)

Strikers were kidnapped and taken across the Ohio River and beaten. Men and women picketers were badly beaten on the streets of the city. Thugs were hired by the score to beat them. Hundreds of arrests took place but the strikers carried on.

The Open-Shop Offensive

IN the early 1920's the "American Plan" and other anti-union movements were launched. War hysteria was redirected against "reds" and "Bolsheviki," these terms being applied to labor unionists. The anti-union attack resulted in a general deflation of the power of organized labor. The attack on the Amalgamated began with the lockout of 1920-21, in New York City, Baltimore and Boston. Over 60,000 workers were involved in the struggle.

The union mobilized nationally in defense and after six months forced the employers to return to collective bargaining, and orderly industrial relations with the union.



The failure of the 1919 Steel Strike was wiped out by the successful drive of the SWOC in 1937. The opening meeting of the drive.

August 1, 1919

Strikers went back to work with three to five dollar increases. Pickets returned to their jobs, beaten but undaunted in their fight to establish a union.

General Executive Board Member Frank Rosenblum was put in charge of the city. General Organizers Jack Kroll and Emilio Grandinetti were sent into the city to build a solid union on the foundation laid by the sacrifices and sufferings of the workers during the general strike.

August 17, 1919

Members donated two hours extra work and the proceeds were contributed to the General Steel Strike.

August 27, 1919

Cutters and trimmers Local No. 189 was chartered.

September 19, 1919

The Globe Tailoring Company signed the first regulation Amalgamated agreement in Cincinnati. The agreement brought a $6 raise and union conditions.

Shortly after, similar agreements were signed by the following firms on the same terms:

Milton Ochs Clothing Co.
Made Rite Tailoring Co.
P. H. Davis Tailoring Co.
Abe Block and Company.
American Art Tailoring Co.
Siebler Tailoring Co.
Frieberg and Kahn Tailoring Co.
Mazur Bros. Clothing Co.
Nobby Clothing Co.

Though the strike was all but lost, after a few months of intensive work, a powerful organization was built to benefit and protect the Cincinnati clothing workers.

October, 1919

The Cincinnati Joint Board was chartered. It consisted of local unions Nos. 113, 188 and 189.

1920-24: Rebuilding from the Bottom Up

May, 1920

At the Boston Convention there were five delegates representing Cincinnati. A resolution was introduced stating that, "We, the clothing workers of Cincinnati pledge ourselves to make every effort and not to relax in our endeavor to organize Cincinnati 100%."

May 27, 1920

The workers of the Milton Ochs Clothing Company went on strike. The discharge of a shop chairman on a trivial charge was the cause. This was the opening shot by the employers of the "back to normalcy period" in their attempt to re-establish the longer work week and lower wages. The strike lasted 13 months and was lost. The labor injunction made its first Cincinnati appearance in this strike. The company's business grew smaller and smaller and in a few years it closed its doors.

December 14, 1920

The Davis Tailoring Company locked out their workers. The strike lasted 12 weeks and was lost.

January, 1921

The Made-Rite locked out their workers and the union lost.

The Seibler Tailoring Company strike lasted eight weeks and was lost.

Other houses opened fire on the union. There were but three union houses left in Cincinnati employing approximately 800 members.

March 7, 1921

The members voluntarily loaned from their savings to enable the Joint Board to function.

Today, Cincinnati clothing workers have time for leisure activities. The soft ball team.

The Golden Rule Needs the Union

THE A. Nash Tailoring Co. in Cincinnati was at this time one of the largest open shops in the country. Mr. Nash, the owner, prided himself on running his business according to the "Golden Rule," and called his plants the "Golden Rule Shops." The workers were exhorted to live a religious life, and bonus systems, stock selling, and profit sharing were part of management policy.

An impartial survey in 1922 showed that wages in the Golden Rule factories averaged about 25 percent lower than in union shops. The Golden Rule needed the support of the union.

It received it in 1925, when the firm signed a collective bargaining agreement with the Amalgamated.

April, 1921

A general organization campaign was decided upon when the clothing manufacturers attempted to restore the forty-eight hour week. The workers protested by coming to union meetings. The bosses suddenly decided to maintain the forty-four hour week. Some progress was made in the plant of "Golden Rule" Nash. In spite of the union's efforts, not much could be accomplished due to industrial conditions.

July, 1921

Because of union pressure, the Nash "Golden Rule" announced a 10 percent increase in wages and the forty hour week. It wouldn't hear of union recognition. The union was pressing for just that.

March 11, 1922

Workers in the factory of L. R. Marks Company, summer goods clothing manufacturer, went on strike in protest against the discharge of four tailors for attending a union meeting. The cutters showed the new found spirit of solidarity by joining the tailors in their protest. The firm ran to court.

March 17, 1922

A drastic injunction was issued, restraining the union from carrying on any strike activities and declaring the strike illegal. The strike lasted sixteen weeks and was lost.

It was during this strike that Bro. Jacob Reichert, business agent of the Cincinnati Joint Board, was framed and sent to the penitentiary for seven years after long drawn-out court action. After being in jail for nine months he was pardoned by the Governor of Ohio because of illness. He died two weeks later, a martyr to the labor movement.

One year later the L. R. Marks Co. went out of business.

March 18, 1922

The cutters and trimmers of Storrs-Schaefer Company joined the Amalgamated.

April, 1922

Twenty Dollar National Reserve Fund assessment was paid in support of the New York lock-out.

May 1, 1922

Agreements were renewed with the Globe Tailoring Company, American Art Custom Tailors and the Abe Block Co., providing for a 10 percent wage increase.

They led the hard battles of 1922. Joint Board Members and Shop Chairmen.

June, 1922

Preparation for an extensive organizing drive was begun in Cincinnati. Open mass activities did not begin until the next spring.

The union was obliged to wait.

March 22, 1923

A huge mass meeting was held at which demands were drawn up for the Cincinnati market. Immediately following this, Levine Bros. locked our their workers. The cutters and trimmers employed by the firm were members of the United Garment Workers.

In spite of their officers, they joined in a common cause with their fellow workers who were locked out for daring to join the Amalgamated. The firm turned to the "Bible House" for help to fight the union. True to their strike-breaking record, these officers rushed to help the employers crush the workers. They brought cutters and tailors in from other cities to fill the places of the strikers, and then signed a "union" agreement. This agreement lasted exactly one year and the imported cutters and tailors then were kicked out. The factory was picketed for a short time.

July 17, 1923

The cutters and trimmers of the Storrs-Schaefer Company were locked out by the firm because they refused to sign a so-called "individual" contract. The strike lasted seven months and was lost.

March, 1924

Another city wide campaign was inaugurated. Again little progress was made because of local conditions and the opposition of the public press, the courts and the city authorities.

1925—Organization of A. Nash & Co.; The First Big Victory

Another attempt at organization was made during the spring and summer. Considerable progress was made particularly in the "Golden Rule" plant. A great deal of publicity was directed against the firm and the prevailing working conditions in that factory.

We carried on.

April, 1925

A five dollar local assessment was levied for organization work. The members were determined that activity be carried on no matter what the cost.

November, 1925

Pres. Sidney Hillman and Mr. Arthur Nash conferred in Washington and Pres. Hillman was invited to talk to the workers.

The drama then moved to Cincinnati and the next scene was enacted in the Schubert Theater. The following quotation, taken from the pages of *The Advance*, tells the story.

> "Tuesday, December 8, 1925, Arthur Nash, head of the A. Nash 'Golden Rule' Tailoring Company in Cincinnati urged his employees to approve of his decision to enter into a union relationship with the Amalgamated. The vote stood; 2,108 for the unionization of the employees of the company and only 8 votes against.
>
> "Wednesday, December 9, 1925, shop meetings were held in the factories of the A. Nash Tailoring Company and in numerous instances the foremen and straw bosses saw through resolutions opposing the unionization of the workers. Great stir and even greater uncertainty prevailed all through. Signs appeared 'Don't give up the Rule, Boys.'
>
> "Thursday, December 10, 1925, all employees and executive heads of the firm assembled at the Schubert Theatre to hear Sidney Hillman state the case for the Amalgamated. There was approval of Mr. Hillman's words and yet when one of the heads of the firm came out against the Amalgamated there was a good deal of animosity exhibited in the direction of the idea of unionization. There was a majority for the union, so it was announced, but the general outlook was anything but bright.
>
> "And then, Friday, the seas subsided, calm again reigned supreme and the union was established."

December, 1925

It was the custom of the Nash Co. to distribute Christmas bonuses to its workers amounting to between $15 and $75. The first Christmas after unionization the representatives of all the workers of all departments met and decided unanimously that all bonuses should be pooled and the fund divided among the under-paid workers. This was done.

1926-1929: Prosperity Runs Wild and Crashes

January 5, 1926

Four new locals were chartered: Local No. 121, Coat makers; Local No. 135, Pants and Vest Makers; Local No. 146, Cutters and Trimmers; Local No. 157, contract pants shops in Mt. Healthy, Ohio; and Local No. 164, Italian Coatmakers.

January 7, 1926

The agreement between the Amalgamated and the A. Nash Company, and its subsidiary, the Schaefer Tailoring Company was ratified at the Emery Auditorium. The agreement provided for a $3 to $5 raise for week workers. Some piece sections received increases as high as 15 percent. A $12 minimum wage scale was established.

February, 1926

One dollar assessment was levied for anthracite miners strike. The new members paid cheerfully.

October, 1926

The Cincinnati membership voted and paid the $10 reserve fund assessment.

An editorial in *The Advance* described the meeting. It said, "There is life in the Cincinnati organization, there is spirit in it. The organization, though young, aspires to occupy a position of distinction among the older units of the Amalgamated."

January 7, 1927

The A. Nash Company agreement was renewed and ratified at Emery Auditorium meeting. President Sidney Hillman and Mr. Arthur Nash addressed the meeting.

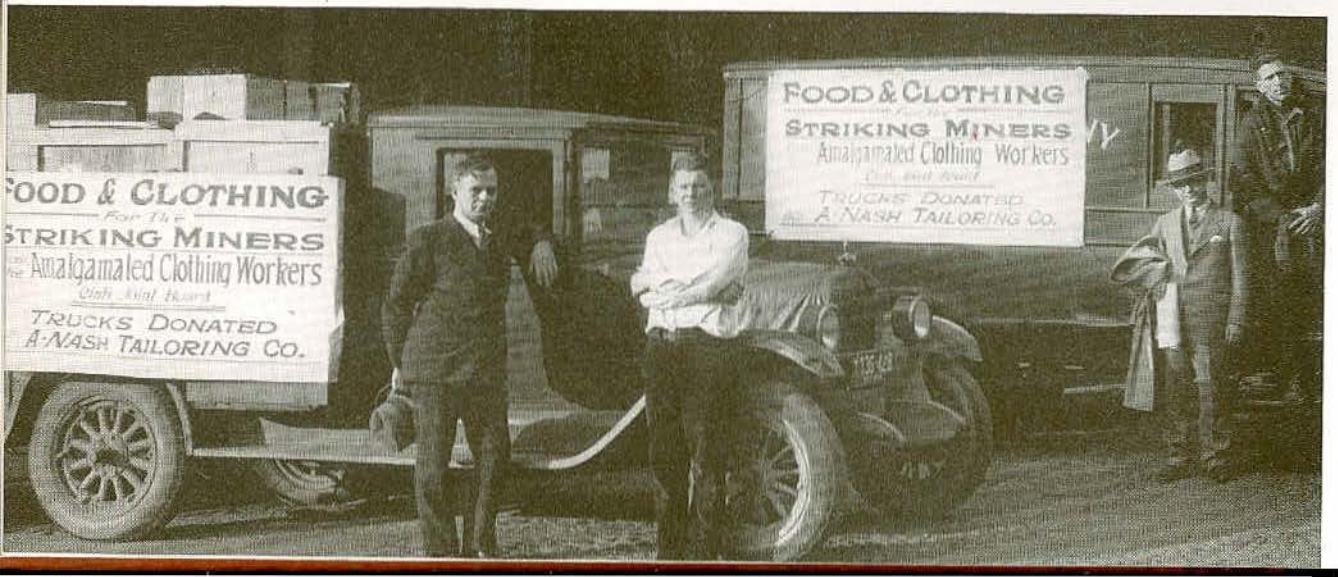
In spite of the fact that

(Continued on page 19)

The Cincinnati Joint Board, 1928.

The Cincinnati Union in the Busy Year of 1926

At Right: The rapidly growing "activity" of the union. Local officers and active members of that day.



At Left: The Cincinnati workers extend a helping hand to the striking anthracite miners. Standing by the truck is Jack Kroll. In 1933, miners helped our striking shirt workers.

(Continued from page 17)

industrial conditions had not been satisfactory for the past few years, an intensive house to house canvas of all the non-union workers was begun by hundreds of active Amalgamated members.

The Levine Clothing Company workers were locked out to forestall the union drive.

February 16, 1927

A committee of the locked out workers met with the firm, demanding 20% increase in wages, sanitary conditions, the right to organize and arbitration. The firm answered by ordering them out of the office. A picket line was immediately thrown around the factory.

February 21, 1927

The firm secured an injuction and the fight was on.

April 16, 1927

The strike continued in disregard of the charge of contempt of court. Strikers were threatened by personal violence. Those who owned their small houses were sued on trumped up charges. Anonymous letters were sent weekly to the strikers containing the most contemptible charges, against the union officials.

Eighth Biennial Convention of the Amalgamated, Cincinnati, May 14, 1928.

July, 1927

A ten dollar national assessment was voted and paid to help finance Chicago and New York fights against an open shop drive.

August, 1927

The scabs were forced to sign "yellow dog" contracts. The company brought the union into court again on a charge that the strike was illegal. The court did not declare the strike illegal but ruled that only one picket and one banner be permitted.

October, 1927

All the Levine strikers were put to work in union shops, and the picket line was withdrawn.

November, 1927

Work was scarce in the city. Many non-union firms liquidated their business and threw hundreds of workers on the street, to work or loaf, to eat or starve, to live or die. It was nobody's concern.

In one union shop when business was bad and the working force had to be reduced, the workers assessed themselves and the company matched the amount raised and this was paid to the unemployed workers to help them until they found work elsewhere.

May 14, 1928

The Eighth Biennial Convention of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers was held in our city. Cincinnati had 13 delegates. In the words of Pres. Hillman in Cincinnati at the opening of the convention, "For years and years our union carried on an uphill fight to organize the clothing workers. But those were the days when we were unsuccessful. Today we have a strong Amalgamated organization in Cincinnati. Our people have steadfastly held on. Today they are enjoying the happy results."

The convention encouraged the Cincinnati members to carry on organizing activity. The call to the Rabb Bros. workers was met with good response.

Leading the strike against the Raab Co., October, 1929. They won it, too.

October 22, 1928

Forty-nine of our active union members were discharged by the Rabb Co. That evening at a meeting of the workers a strike was voted unanimously. The next morning an effective picket line was thrown around the factory.

An injunction was granted limiting the number of pickets and attempting to restrict the organization in its efforts during the Rabb strike. The union had an-

ticipated this and had made arrangements to be represented by Attorney Charles P. Taft who ably took care of court matters.

October 26, 1928

Due to the previous strike the organization finances were depleted and at a mass meeting a 10 percent assessment for the duration of the strike was voted unanimously and with enthusiasm by the membership.

November 17, 1928

A conference was held between President Hillman and the officers of the company.

November 18, 1928

The Rabb Bros. signed a union agreement, wages were increased and hours reduced from 47 to 44. The strikers returned to work. It was the first strike victory in our union in Cincinnati in many years. It was much welcomed.

Ratification Meeting of Raab Strikers, 1929.

January, 1929

The Cincinnati Joint Board established a health service. Each union shop was equipped with a medical office where high class medical men and attendants took care of the members at stated periods. A medical office with a trained nurse was established at the union headquarters.

Hundreds of members used its facilities.

1930-1932: The Bitter Years of Economic Depression

In spite of the depression, the hard hit market and unemployment, the organization work was carried on. Non-union workers were visited at their homes. The non-union firms forced their employees to sign "yellow dog" contracts and a constant watch was kept on those suspected of union sympathy.

May 15, 1930

The Amalgamated Credit Union of Kentucky was established.

February, 1931

Four cutters were discharged by the Davis Tailoring Company because of suspected union activity.

March 5, 1931

The workers of the Davis Tailoring Co. struck the plant. Two days later the firm appealed to the Federal Court for an injunction. The order issued by the Federal Judge provided that picketing be limited to two strikers and one banner at each entrance.

April, 1931

At a mass meeting of the members a 5 percent assessment was levied on the membership to conduct the Davis strike as long as it was needed.

April 15, 1931

More cutters of the Davis Co. walked out on strike. The firm demanded that the court declare the strike off because they had signed contracts with their employees. This was denied.

The plant was picketed for almost a year but the strike was lost.

P. H. Davis Strikers. They fought a year and lost. Six years later, victory!

October 15, 1931

A 10 percent wage reduction took place in the union shops as in other union markets.

The depression brought to Cincinnati the same problems as to other markets. Meeting these problems, welded the members closer together than ever before. Workers in the non-union clothing firms were compelled to acccept disgraceful wages in sharp contrast with those in union shops.

April, 1932

Rabb Brothers Company, who were under contract with the Amalgamated went into receivership. Two hundred of our members were made jobless.

May 31, 1932

A reduction of ten percent was made in Cincinnati union factories. This was general throughout the country.

The Nation in Grief

DEPRESSION years followed one another in tragic succession. The mighty, sulking in their tents, knew not what to say or to do. But they suffered neither hunger, nor cold, nor were they naked. They waited—in comfort—for something to happen. But the people had to find a way out, or they would perish. The great social and political awakening that took the stage in 1933 grew out of the minds, and the hearts, and the needs of the poor and the suffering. Came the New Deal—in 1933.

Arrangements Committee, Eighth Convention of the ACWA, Cincinnati, 1928.

1933-1934: NIRA, Recovery, Labor

Despite the dark and discouraging outlook, the Joint Board decided that organization work should be attempted. Non-union workers were visited at their homes, letters of encouragement were sent out and circulars were distributed in front of the factories in an attempt to put some life and hope into discouraged non-union workers. This resulted in some firms restoring part of the wage reductions made.

June 19, 1933

The shirt workers employed by the Rauh Shirt Co. walked out on strike for recognition and higher wages.

When the blanket code of the NRA went into effect our drive was intensified.

July, 1933

The Industrial Recovery Association was formed to fight for longer hours and lower minimum wage under the code and received strong moral and financial support from sixteen non-union clothing manufacturers in Cincinnati.

August, 1933

The shirt workers local No. 175 was chartered.

September 11, 1933

The men's clothing code became effective and the union shops secured a 36 hour week, and proportionate increases in wages. The Cincinnati Joint Board took on the task of policing the industry for compliance with code provisions. Numerous reports of violation of the code came in and were forwarded to the authorities.

September 14, 1933

The Rauh strike was settled, a small wage increase won and a code agreement signed.

September 19, 1933

Workers of the Becker Tailoring Company walked out on strike against violations of the code. The next day the workers returned to a union shop with wage increases in some cases of almost 100 percent.

February, 1934

The delegates of the Cincinnati Joint Board took their place in the Central Labor Council of the A. F. of L. where they were welcomed and congratulated on the militant fight they had made to establish their organization.

June, 1934

Following the annulment of the NIRA by the Supreme Court, the Cincinnati membership voted a $10.00 assessment toward the National Million-Dollar Fund for the protection of our standards.

The soup kitchen—ugly landmark of a rotten system. Picture at right from *Ken.*

1935-1937: The Big Push Toward Ultimate Victory

Early in the year a drive was started that was to mark the end of long years of constant endeavor to organize the Cincinnati clothing workers. Facing an opposition that used every known means to fight the union, the veteran active members mobilized all their force and resources in a determined drive. Night after night after the day's work in the shop was done, hundreds of members called on non-union workers. They always found time for union work, to address meetings, and to hand out leaflets by the tens of thousands. Union propaganda, verbal and printed, poured out. Members, with memories of picket lines, of injunctions, of jail sentences, of long deferred hopes and ambitions were not to be denied and soon the final struggle was under way.

There was no task too difficult to be attempted, none too small to be given the most careful attention. Over four hundred members took part in this "flying squadron" canvassing campaign.

August 7, 1935

Negotiations were opened with the Leonard Custom Clothing Company. The firm refused a union agreement.

August 14, 1935

As a result, a strike was called and the workers walked out to the last man. Immediately a picket line was thrown around the factory.

August 16, 1935

A complete union agreement and a wage increase of approximately 10 percent was won. The workers returned to the shops in high spirits and the glad news soon spread among the non-union shops.

More and more workers came to visit headquarters, asked about what the union could do for them.

August 28, 1935

The Seibler Tailoring Company tried to stop the movement toward the union by holding an "election". They suggested that those wishing to strike vote yes, and those not wishing to strike vote no. The workers tore up the ballots and destroyed the ballot boxes. The next morning a union agreement was signed with the same increase that had been won in the other newly organized shops.

The National Defense Drive of 1935

THE NIRA was invalidated by the Supreme Court in 1935. The Amalgamated determined to maintain the code provisions in the industry by union power. The 36-hour week and code minimum wages were incorporated into union agreements and enforced. A million-dollar defense fund was raised and the proceeds used in a wide-flung organization campaign.

The National Labor Relations Act, passed during that year, was of assistance.

Fighting our way out of depression. Amalgamated strikers in the Pennsylvania shirt area, 1933.

The cutters of the Cincinnati Tailoring Company stopped work for a half day while an agreement was made with their employers providing for the complete unionization of the shop with an approximate 10 percent increase in wages. The Seibler workers paraded to union headquarters to ratify their agreement.

August 30, 1935

An agreement was made with the W. A. Nash Company of Covington, Kentucky.

August 31, 1935

A thousand clothing workers joined the union during this month.

September, 1935

These speedy victories encouraged even more active organization. Open-shop employers, foreseeing the complete unionization of the market, "ganged up" and every union hating firm in the city and even some importations came to their support. It was a well known

Boys from the Ohio and Hamilton shops.

fact that financial support was pledged to all struck houses.

General Executive Board meeting was held in Cincinnati.

September 12, 1935

The Ohio Custom Garment Company refused to confer with the union and the workers walked out on strike.

September 29, 1935

An injuction was issued against Ohio strikers which made it almost impossible to conduct the strike and practically prohibited the strikers from breathing. But the strike went on.

Picketing was continued.

October 2, 1935

Twenty-five Ohio Co. picketers were arrested for contempt of court on the picket line. A writ of habeas corpus had to be secured for their release.

October 3, 1935

The Hamilton Tailoring Company employees struck following the breakdown of negotiations.

October 5, 1935

The Hamilton Tailoring Company asked for the same injunction secured by the Ohio Custom Garment Co. It was granted by the same judge.

Two strikers were fined $25.00 each and sentenced to five days in jail. The sentence was appealed.

During the first week of the strike each and every striker was charged with contempt of court at least once and some even two and three times.

This injunction was set aside after the union disclosed the fact that the judge, who had issued the injunction, had been a director of a shirt factory that had been strike bound by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers in 1934. The judge then "washed his hands of the case."

October 22, 1935

A picket was fined $25 in a police court and sentenced to serve a day in the workhouse.

October 28, 1935

Later the same striker was charged with contempt of court for the same offense and received a ten day

suspended sentence. Six girl strikers received jail sentences under the contempt charges.

October 29, 1935

"Scab" work was found in one contract shop. All the workers walked out and remained on strike for two days. The contractor then promised that he would refuse to manufacture such work. He paid the workers for lost time.

October 30, 1935

The union charged both firms with violations of the National Labor Relations Act and a hearing date was set. Immediately the firm secured an injunction against a hearing on the grounds that the National Labor Relations Act was unconstitutional.

The injunction suit against the Board was heard but no decision was ever made in the case.

Fall, 1935

Organization work continued in other non-union shops. Manufacturers tried every known trick including "yellow-dog" contracts, life insurance, picnics, parties, company unions, promises of a wage increase "sometime in the future".

December 4, 1935

The Court held that the "yellow dog" contracts forced by the Ohio Custom Garment Company and the Hamilton Tailoring Company, were illegal.

February 4, 1936

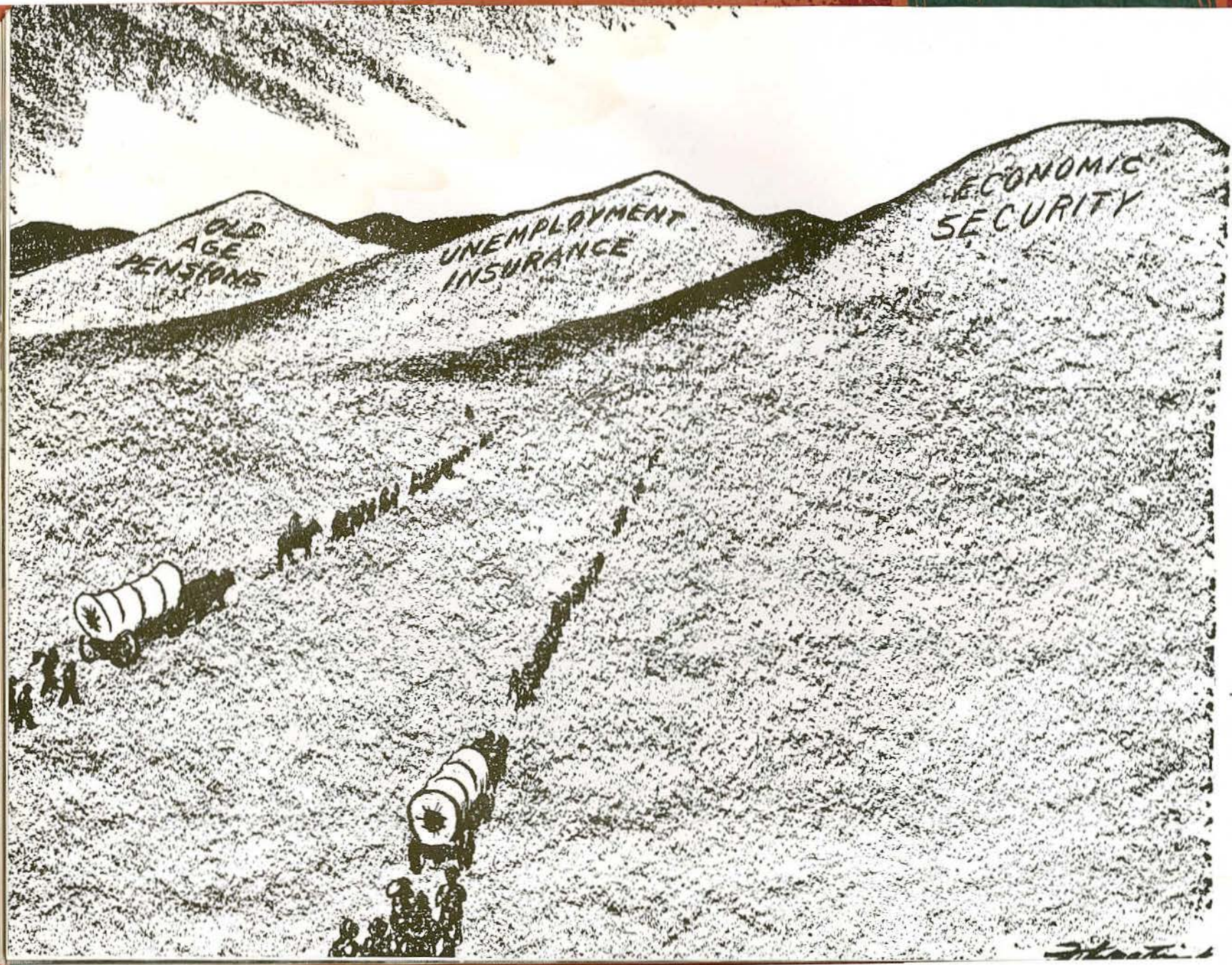
A striker was beaten on the picket line and was laid up in the hospital for ten days. He later went to the City Council Chambers with raw wounds, and the strikers crowded the Council Chambers protesting the action of these thugs on our streets.

Letters were sent to the Mayor, and the City Councilmen. Committees of strikers appealed in person to the City Manager to halt the injustices against them. But nothing helped. Hired thugs still beat up the pickets who valiantly fought back.

April, 1936

The Cincinnati Joint Board prepared itself to carry

Girl pickets from the two-year Ohio and Hamilton strikes.



Toward New Frontiers of Social Progress

Fitzpatrick in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch

on this long fight. It placed as many strikers as possible to work in the union houses, and kept the balance on the picket line. The union publicized the action of these companies to the salesmen and in localities where the strike-bound houses attempted to get orders. The United Mine Workers of America were particularly helpful in this situation as the companies did a large part of their business in mining districts.

April 8, 1936

The bushelmen of Bond's Clothing Company organized and an agreement was signed with the store providing for a wage increase and union conditions.

The Dunlap Clothing shop bushelmen did likewise; also a great number of smaller stores.

April 9, 1936

The department store of Mabley & Carew and the Burkhardt Clothing Store called for thugs who forcefully removed the bushelmen when they demanded a union shop. Both places were actively picketed for nine months but the strike was lost.

May 10, 1936

Cincinnati was represented in the Cleveland Convention by 10 delegates.

The I. & S. Bing Company, non-union clothing manufacturer employing about two hundred people, closed their doors and these workers were thrown out on the street.

June, 1936

J.T.U. Local No. 155 officially affiliated with the Cincinnati Joint Board.

July, 1936

The meeting of the Ohio Custom Garment Company sales force in Cincinnati, was canvassed thoroughly by the strikers and the salesmen informed of the reason for the strike.

Organizing work was still carried on by the active members among the rest of the non-union workers in the city, who were kept informed of the conditions of the strikers.

September 8, 1936

Leonard Tailors renewed its union agreement for a period of two years.

September 10, 1936

Seibler Tailoring Company renewed its agreement.

September 16, 1936

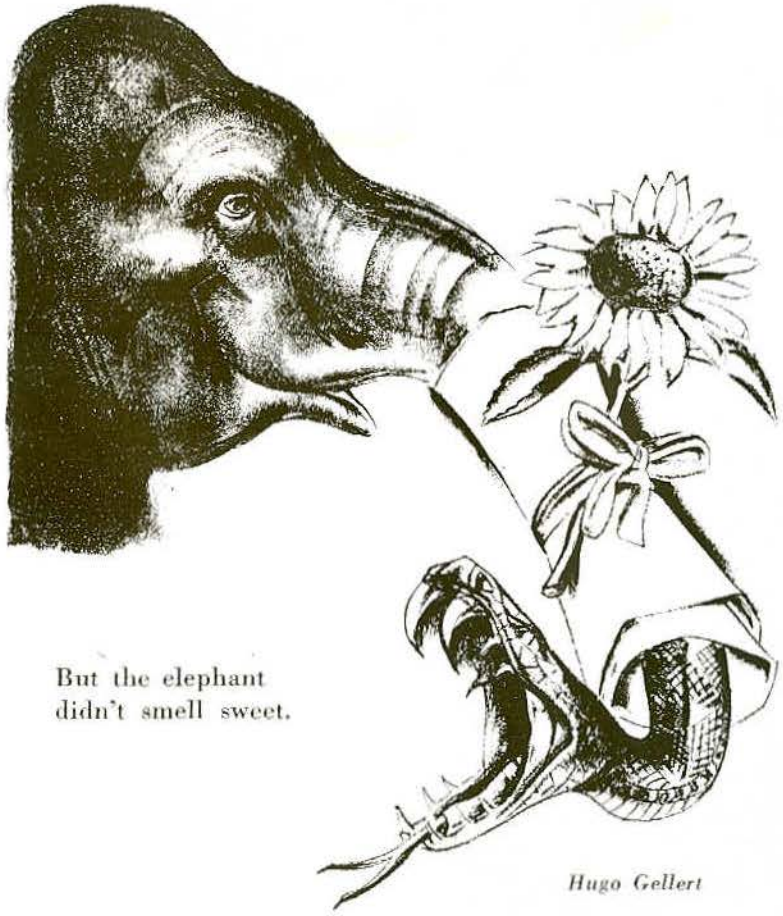
Cincinnati Tailoring Company renewed its union agreement.

September 18, 1936

The W. A. Nash agreement was renewed.

October 5, 1936

A mass meeting of the membership assessed themselves $1.00 for the steel workers organizing campaign carried on by the CIO.



But the elephant
didn't smell sweet.

Hugo Gellert

October 25, 1936

The Court of Appeals declared the Ohio and Hamilton strikes illegal. The case was immediately appealed to the Supreme Court of Ohio.

The Political Campaign of 1936

IN the summer of 1936, our union collaborated with others in founding Labor's Non-Partisan League, an organization for independent political action by labor. The League supported the reelection of President Roosevelt and various local candidates.

Amalgamated members were prominent in the political campaign which LNPL brought to such successful fruition.

LNPL has become a permanent organization, with branches in every state of the union. In New York State it acts as the American Labor Party, where it holds the balance of power.

From this period on, the non-union plants made increased attempts to reduce wages. The union counteracted them by active organization work, visiting the workers at their homes and sending them letters weekly keeping them informed of conditions.

November, 1936

Our members actively worked for the re-election of President Roosevelt.

February 1, 1937

The A. Nash Company renewed its agreement.

February 9, 1937

A general wage increase of twelve percent for the men's clothing industry was negotiated by the general organization to take effect May 15.

February 17, 1937

The Ohio State Supreme Court refused to hear our appeal case, thereby upholding the local Court of Ap-

peals in its decision that the strikes were illegal. The strikes continued.

March 10, 1937

A twelve percent wage increase, to be effective at once, was announced by the P. H. Davis Company and the Storrs-Schaefer Tailoring Company.

March 19, 1937

The H. A. Seinsheimer Company announced an indefinite increase for the next season.

March 20, 1937

The Groomwell Tailors Inc. signed an agreement.

The Formation of the CIO

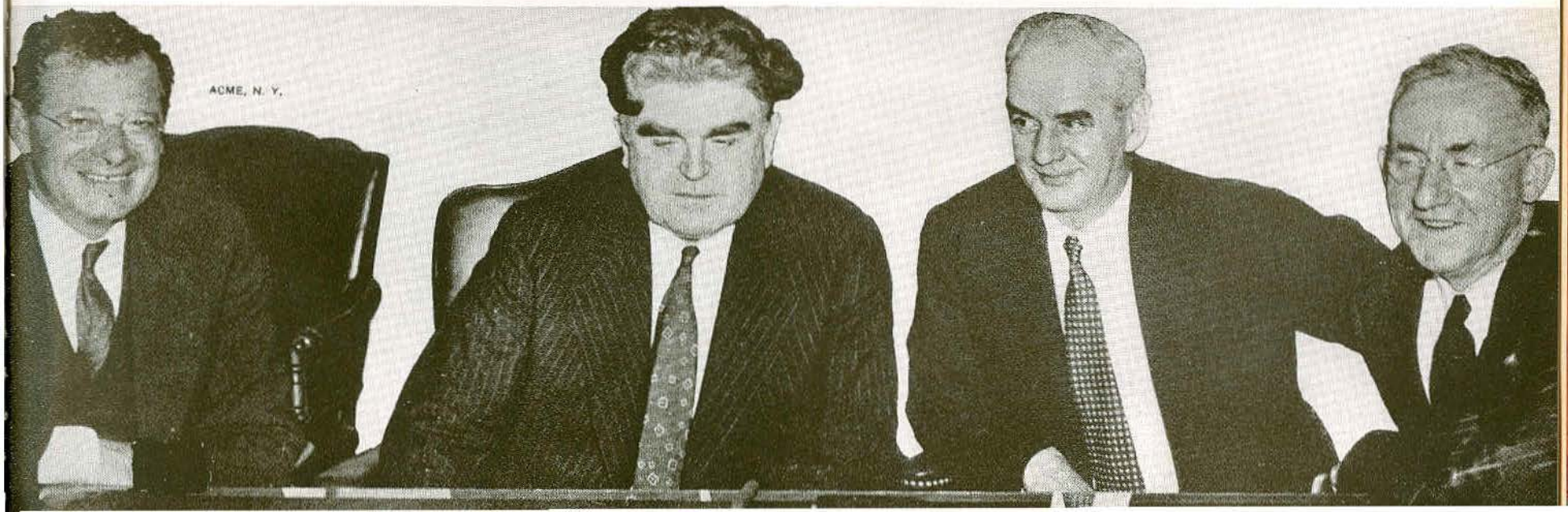
IN November of 1935, the Committee for Industrial Organization was formed, with the Amalgamated as one of the eight founding unions. The CIO had as its purpose the espousal of the industrial form of organization in mass production industries and the promotion of unionization of mass production workers.

The CIO received a warm welcome from the millions of unorganized workers in the great open-shop industries of the nation. Four million workers were enrolled into the CIO in one year and a half.

March 27, 1937

M. Berman & Sons and Queen City Canvas Manufacturers signed an Amalgamated agreement.

CIO Leaders Sidney Hillman, John L. Lewis, Philip Murray, John Brophy.



The Cincinnati Joint Board

June, 1937

The active workers at the helm during the big drive

Spring 1937: Success Comes to Crown Our Efforts

April 12, 1937

The National Labor Relations Act was declared legal by the U. S. Supreme Court.

April 15, 1937

Sit down strike was held at the Rauh shirt factory in the laundry department.

April 23, 1937

The agreement with the Globe Tailoring Co. was renewed. This marked twenty-one years of uninterrupted contractual relations.

April 26, 1937

The Hamilton Tailoring Company, after 19 months strike, signed an agreement. This electrified the city.

Union headquarters became the center of intense activity. Committees came from this and that non-union shop, wanting to arrange meetings for their factory. Active members came in to report and to receive instructions and rushed out. Three, four and five meetings were held every day. What to do here, what to do there! This shop was ready, the other shop needed time. Application cards were turned in by the hundreds. The years of patient experience in organization work were bearing fruit. When it was decided that a certain shop was ready, our members knew whom to approach, how and what was to be done. Everybody knew his job and went ahead and did it. People were in union headquarters all hours of the day and night; the phone rang continuously. Negotiations were carried on with a half dozen firms at one time. Union contracts were signed daily.

The Amalgamated headquarters were not only carrying on organization work for the clothing workers but were also the focal point for organizing activities of the CIO, tile workers, perfumery workers, auto workers, steel workers, etc. All came to the Amalgamated headquarters looking for advice, help and assistance. This member was assigned to one plant, that one to the other. No one was refused help.

The Great Drives of the CIO

BY the spring of 1937 the great organization campaigns of the Committee for Industrial Organization were bearing fruit. The auto workers had won the great "sit-down" strike against General Motors; the Steel Workers Organizing Committee secured an agreement with United States Steel Corporation; the affiliates of the CIO had grown to 32 international unions and hundreds of industrial unions.

A wave of labor organization preceded and accompanied these victories. Everywhere the cry was: "Let's go CIO!" Amalgamated membership grew with that of other unions.

General Organizer Emilio Grandinetti, pillar of strength in the Cincinnati organization.

May, 1937

Organizers came into the city, especially commissioned by the A. F. of L. to organize the clothing workers of Cincinnati.

May 11, 1937

H. A. Seinsheimer Company employing 1,100 workers in Cincinnati and New Albany, signed a union agreement.

May 12, 1937

After a 19 month strike the Ohio Custom Garment Company employing 175 people signed an agreement.

May 15, 1937

Valerio Tailoring Company employing 100 people, signed a contract.

May 15, 1937

A 12 percent wage increase went into effect in all union shops.

May 19, 1937

Herbert Tailoring Company signed, employing about 75 people.

May 22, 1937

Schwartz Tailoring Company signed, employing about 200 people.

May 27, 1937

P. H. Davis Tailoring Company signed, employing over 300 people.

June 8, 1937

P. Goldsmith Sporting Goods Company signed. The

firm employs over 300 people and is one of the largest sporting goods houses in the country.

June 10, 1937

Hyde Park Clothes, Levine Bros., signed. They employ over 500 people.

June 17, 1937

Weisbaum Bros., Brower Company, and "Beau Brummel Ties" one of the outstanding neckwear houses in the country, employing 400 workers, signed a union agreement with a 10 percent wage increase.

June 19, 1937

M. Silverstein & Sons signed. The firm employs over 200 people.

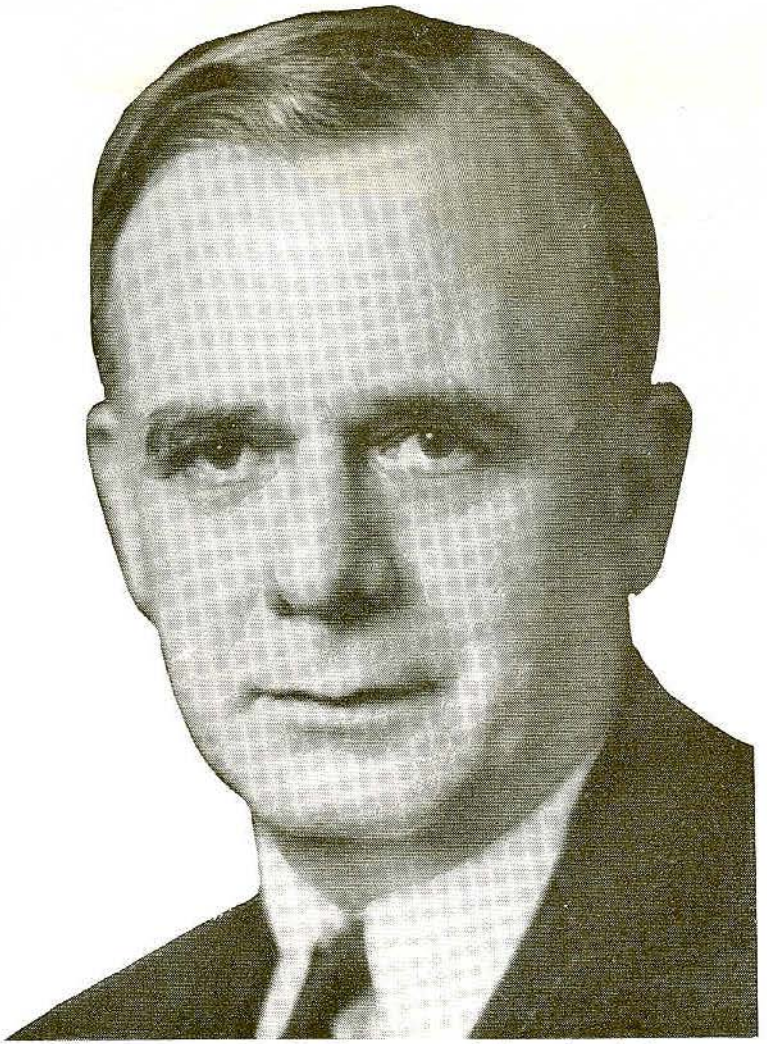
The Becker Clothing Co., L. Snow Tailoring Co., Ohio & Kentucky, I. & S. Bing and Maxwell and Rothschild signed agreements.

July 1, 1937

The Hutchinson Bros. Sporting Goods Manufacturers workers joined the union and opened negotiations with no results. A lockout strike took place. The shop was picketed 7 days, and then an agreement providing wage increases and union conditions was signed with the company.

The picture was now complete. Peaceful negotiations were employed wherever possible. Strikes used whenever necessary. In some cases speedy negotiation, in others long-drawn-out patient meeting of minds was necessary. But the organization was a

(Continued on Page 40)



Brother Jack Kroll, Manager and Captain of the Cincinnati Union Forces.

A Landmark On the Road to Industrial Liberty

THE picture below shows workers pouring out of Cincinnati clothing factories to attend the mass obligation of new members, in September, 1937, after the drive which made the city completely organized for unionism. On the page opposite one can glimpse part of the crowd of six thousand which attended, as well as those fortunate enough to be "up front." The members pledged their loyalty to the union they joined.

Freedom

Men! whose boast it is that ye
Come of fathers brave and free,
If there breathe on earth a slave,
Are ye truly free and brave?
If ye do not feel the chain
When it works a brother's pain,
Are ye not base slaves indeed,
Slaves unworthy to be freed?

Is true Freedom but to break
Fetters for our own dear sake,
And, with leathern hearts, forget
That we owe mankind a debt?
No! True Freedom is to share
All the chains our brothers wear,
And, with heart and hand, to be
Earnest to make others free!

They are slaves who fear to speak
For the fallen and the weak;
They are slaves who will not choose
Hatred, scoffing and abuse,
Rather than in silence shrink
From the truth they needs must think:
They are slaves who dare not be
In the right with two or three.

James Russell Lowell

Mass Obligation of New Members, Music Hall Auditorium, *September, 1937*

New Days Bring New Ways

IN the fast-moving scene of the last few years, it has been necessary for the union movement to discard many old ways of doing things and invent many new ones.

When members join unions in vast numbers, it is important that they be immediately drawn into the paths of union activity, that they feel at home, that they learn the ways of organization. In this task, the "mass obligation" of members, the Officers' Symposium, and many other social and educational activities were successfully employed by the Cincinnati Amalgamated.

(Continued from page 37)

master in all processes and ready to meet any condition that arose. We were successful in every case with the exception of the Superior Tailoring Company (Comello Bros.) where workers were coerced into the UGW.

July 7, 1937

A charter was issued for Local No. 241, necktie workers.

August 6, 1937

Sporting Goods Local No. 200 was chartered.

September, 1937

Local No. 155, JTU renewed its agreement with all merchant tailors and secured wage increases.

September 28, 1937

The largest gathering of organized labor known to Cincinnati took place on this day. All workers in Amalgamated shops stopped work at a given time, left their machines and benches and marched to the Music Hall with banners proclaiming their industrial emancipation. 6,000 strong, they converged on the largest meeting place in the city and filled it to overflowing. General President Hillman welcomed them into the union and Manager Kroll read the Amalgamated pledge. The new members repeated it after him.

November, 1937

The Superior Tailoring Company workers had been restless under the United Garment Workers "agreement", and decided that now their time had come. We had been advising them to "have patience, your time will come, too."

A committee representing all departments drew up an indictment charging that, "in seven months only one meeting was held and that for women only, men were barred, even men chairmen were not allowed to be present."

"The tyrannical and malicious attitude the Business Agent displays toward us, marks him a man unfit to represent the interest of the workers.

"He intimidates, browbeats and uses profane language against workers.

"The Business Agent revealed to company officials those workers who sought to have their grievance adjusted and exposed members who attempted to uphold union standards.

"Failing at all times to protect our interest as clothing workers."

This indictment proves that through all these years the officers had not learned anything.

November 12, 1937

A meeting was held by the Superior Workers to which the officers of the A. C. W. of A. and the U. G. W. of A. were invited to be present.

The officers of the U. G. W. failed to make their appearance and before the A. C. W. of A. representatives spoke, the workers unanimously "severed their relationship with the U. G. W. and affiliated themselves with the A. C. W. of A." This action made the Cincinnati workers 100 percent Amalgamated.

Meeting of the Comello Workers, Nov. 12, 1937, to join our union.

1938: We Greet the Twelfth Biennial Convention

During the campaign the Business Agents of the Joint Board, Brothers Marco Meccia, Morris Schaps and Arthur Hartman, together with the active members, too numerous to mention, performed their duties in a splendid manner.

With the acquisition of the new shops the staff was increased. Bro. Henry Seibert, Business Agent of the Coat Makers and Bro. Ben Sprague of the Pants and Vest Makers were added to the staff.

Happy union clothing workers play ball with their shop mates.

The union went to work. Meetings were immediately called, workers were assigned to their local unions. Shop meetings and election of shop chairmen and secretaries followed. New members were instructed in their union privileges, obligations and duties and they are responding in an excellent manner despite the industrial conditions, and are carrying on their duties in the organization of which they have become a part.

To the newcomers, the Amalgamated says: "A hearty welcome. We are glad you have taken your place with us. We wish you many happy days in the union." And to the old-timers we say: "Hats off! You've won a great success and you deserve it. Year after year you stuck to the job; you never gave up. That's Amalgamated courage, and Amalgamated spirit. We're proud of you."

General President Sidney Hillman, General Secretary Joseph Schlossberg and Assistant President Jacob S. Potofsky came to this city on numerous occasions.

General Executive Board Member Frank Rosenblum, head of the W.O.D., visits Cincinnati frequently. General Executive Board Member Jack Kroll, Man-

ager of the Cincinnati Joint Board, has been in Cincinnati since 1919. General Organizer Emilio Grandinetti came to Cincinnati in 1915 and whenever possible after that. General Executive Board Member Leo Kryzcki, J. B. S. Hardman and Charles W. Erwin have been welcome guests on many occasions.

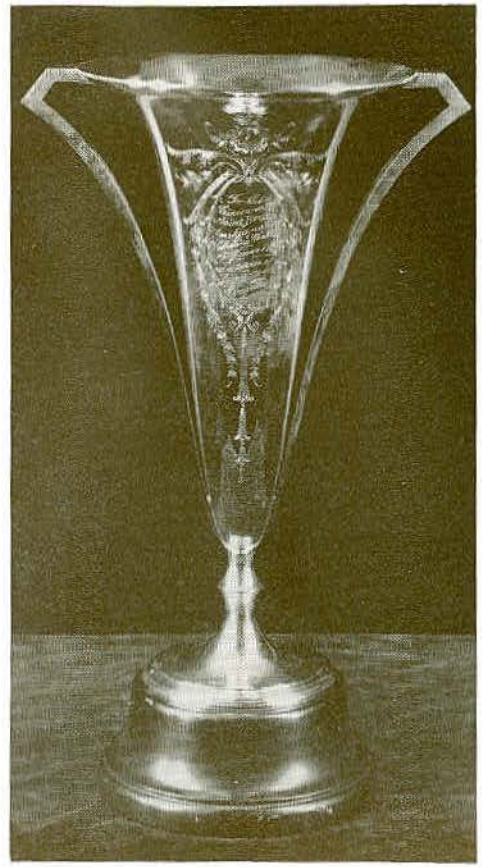
Cincinnati Big Leaguers on the Union Team.

General Organizers Alex Cohen, Harry Madonic, Dora Lohsey, Phillip DeLuca and Lazarus Marcovitz were here during the historic 1919 strike, and at different periods the following general organizers were in the city: Hyman Scheid, Paul Arnoni, Celestine Goddard, Ann Washington Creighton, William Rocco, Anton Johanson, Jos. Barry, Hyman Isowitz, Joe Kaminsky, Jack Price, Sam Diamond, Louis Elet and Louis Fuchs.

The clothing workers in Cincinnati, after 25 years of conflict, strike, sacrifices, defeats and victories, unsurpassed by any of its sister organizations, are finally and irrevocably Amalgamated and are proud to take their place in the ranks of the labor movement.

We greet the officers and members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America at its 12th Biennial Convention. We thank them for their assistance, without which the job could not have been done.

We salute and report ready for duty, all present and accounted for.



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